

Midsummer Moon

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* T O M o' Bedlam's

Thanks to his S I S T E R Bess:

With a Letter of

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N

T O

Poor Brother B E N,

In order to Repair his S I S T E R'S

LOOKING-GLASS.

Dum vitant Stulti vitia, in contraria currunt.
Hor.

L O N D O N,

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O R,

T O M o' Bedlam's

Thanks to his *SISTER Bess; &c.*

PRETTY *Betty!* where ha'st thou been this long Time? A playing the Wanton with Brother *Ben*? Here's a Revolution Cake cram'd with D---ch Sugar-Plumbs; that's my good Girl, go and tell him we have need of a Chaplain this hot Weather, and he bids the fairest for it of any of the *Canary-Tribe*. Assure him upon thy Modesty he will meet with less difficulty than he cou'd expect, were he *Compos Mentis*, to settle his *Madagascar* Principles in our Distracted Common-Wealth.

Bedlam is the only Sanctuary he can take hold of, to preserve his infirm Carcass from the madder World. Madder did I say! Ay, and quite Mad too: For did ever any Man in his Senses expose his Harlot, to misinterpret the Laws, as thou hast done for him; and when he could not meet with a better Prey, after his Lordship upon *Ben's* beloved Principle of Self-Defence had knock'd him down, ro-

set upon poor *Tom*. What could he take from him? Nothing but a Half-fac'd Groat, for thou knowest for Conscience sake we despise Riches and Preferment, tho' the want of them has made many *Demizens* of *Bedlam*, and in a little Time will make him B — p of the *West-End*.

Poor *Ben*, prithee give him some Encouragement to come amongst Us, for I know very well, unless Preferment is in the Wind, he won't be brought here. Tell him the *North-Wind* blows, who knows what he may get by such a Wind, which has long since blown down *St. Peter's* at *Edinburgh*; but let him have a Care, the very Name of *Peter*, I can tell him, smells of *Poper*y in *London*.

In our Kingdom, he that bawls longest, is the best Man; and this I find, he demands as legally as the Power of the People, or else he would never have reply'd to his Lordship, and set thee upon poor *Tom*, had he not found he had got the strongest Breath. But I faith, I'll wind my Horn again, and have the other Touch with him, for the sake of thy dear Smock-Face the Beloved of the People.

Bess, thee and I know very well we came here for Love, and why shou'd not Brother *Ben* do so too for his beloved *Dalilah*: And then, when we have got him amongst Us, we'll dispute with the best Bishop of them all, tho' we once own'd him to be so Great, that his Authority was sufficient to fix a Stamp upon Truth. But alas, this was to the rational

part

part of Mankind: They, poor Souls, have nothing to do with our refin'd Model. We'll only banter them, and tell 'em we are mad for doing it, and they are as mad for believing it; for I prithee, what have they to do to believe Us, except they were all as mad as We? By which means, we shall have our Kingdom enlarg'd, and take in all *B ---- d Street*; and if Brother *Ben* shou'd get the Day, as when I was serious t'other Night I verily believ'd he would, then we will have the broad *R* cypher'd over his Door in *Geneva* Character; and what has any Rogue to do with that, so *Ben* reigns *Avery* in *Candy-Islands*?

But now Sister *Bess* in good sober Sadness, let us examine a little our Brothers Letter by thee to us, tho' upon Summing up of the whole Matter, I fear *Hussy*, thou wilt turn Jilt to an Old Acquaintance, and give him the Staff: But if it should prove so, as I'm sure it must, if it ever comes to be tried by any of our Brethren at *H ---- hall*; yet *Betty*, thy Dextrous Hand can draw poor *Toms* Case to the Life; prithee paint Modesty in his Forehead, for *fronti nulla fides*, Truth in his Mouth, for *Lingua est mendax*, and Innocence in his Habit, for *sub agnina pelle Vulpes*: But that pocky limping Toe, What shall I do with it? Oh! I have it. I'll build my Government upon the Sands, and then to be sure every Mobbish Tempest will hurl it down.

Now *Bess* to begin as a body may say, when we were just going to agree about Quarrelling; *Ben* saith, that is thou say'st for *Ben*, that he can call Names as well as I, and indeed I believe it; and to be plain with thee, that is as plain as *Dunstable* way to *Bedlam*, but to be more plain in the Comparative Degree; for thou must know that Love, Law and Learning brought most of us here; but to be most plain or plainest of all in the Superlative, Scolding and Railing, and Defaming and Backbiting, is a necessary qualification for *Bedlam*. Thou seest *Hussy* I have not forgot all my *Hackney* Learning, which sure will Recommend me to a Chamber up Stairs, for I love to be aloft, therefore to end that Dispute with thee, as I design all the rest when I can Bawl no longer; *Ben* shall Civilly or Madly, take it which way you will, have my upper Room as I promis'd him in my former, for by the way we Mad-Men love to be as Civil as other Folks, when we cannot help it: And we know as well as other People how to Bully our Keepers, if they wou'd be so mad as to lay aside the Cudgel and let us do it tamely.

But now *Ben* to come to the Touch-stone, lets Argue a little with those Foolish Ones, as you know all are such who are not on our side; We are Three, *Tom* and *Ben*, and *Bess*, for I'll keep my Precedence till your next Edition, and you know Three is a Compleat Number, nay, and will stand a Probatum in a *West Country* Bishops Court; don't I *Tom*
call

call you *Ben* a Mad-man and that for Reasons herein Libeled, and don't you *Ben* bring in a Libel in your Defence, against a Man whose Name is not fit to be Defild with either of our Mouths except we mend our Manners; and not having the fear of Government before your Eyes, bring a Common Strumpet for your Advocate, a *Bess* of *Bedlam*, all which appears as followeth. But however *Ben* to be Civil, for you know by Experience we Mad Folks love to be Civil; be pleas'd to accept of my thanks for your Condescending to Answer me, which I suppose you would never have done had not you been as Mad as my self: Dont you verily believe that I have very great Interest with his Lordship, and sufficient to make a Reconciliation between Him and You, and for no other Reason, but because he vouchsafed you an Answer which better deserv'd a Rod of Correction. For *Betty* thou may'st tell *Ben* upon my word, that altho' Common Fools always pretended to the best Sense, Common Grace is most plentifully poured on the best Men; and since *Ben* owns my Lord, to have been a better Man than himself: I hope he will not Quarrel with his Creator, that he has Endowed a Learned Bishop with more Piety and Learning than an Inferior Priest, who snarles at every thing that is above him; and as much as in him lies, sets *Pelion* upon *Ossa*, endeavours to Rebuild the Tower of *Babel*, in order to set his Beloved People on the highest Pinnacle and

Storm his Creator, which he effectually doth by Degenerating his Vice gerents.

Remember *Huffy* when you first came among Us, you were as full of Scripture as the *Gardiners* Wife at *Richmond*, who was Whin'd out of her Senses by *Br---'s Version*; and if you and I should now with Brother *Ben* call Antiquity in question, who knows but Old *Hop--ns* may chime us all into our Senses agen, and then the World will knock us on the Head for Innovators. But Dear *Betty*, I had like to have forgot to thank thee finely, for owning what *Ben* would have been at all this while, a Church Governour. Introth I think his Parochial Majesty has long since let up an Independent Government, or he wou'd never have bewrayed his own Nest, for who will believe [except Love blinds them] as it doth thee *Betty*; that *St. Peters* Parson should ever Contradict *St. Peter*, and from thence a Purblind Man may perceive what a hopeful Successor he wou'd be, who will leave the Established Rights of an Orthodox Church, to set up new Fangles of his own Distemper'd Brain, mere Chimeras, which at best is only a contention about Words; for what matters the Cause or Causes of the Revolution since we happily enjoy it, and at so cheap a Rate as without any blood, and who but a Mad-Man or an Enemy to it, wou'd propose a Thesis which admits of no Contradiction.

But *Betty* why so angry with the Bishops of *Exeter*? Is it because the former was one of
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the Seven Golden Candlesticks, and his Successor is like to be a Burning Lamp, and neither of them are like to Trim to *Popery* or *Phanaticism*, which are the two Thieves who have been a Crucifying our Church this last Century. Must they needs Preach up Resistance, and tell every *Hemson* he is fit to be a Collonel, and every Collonel an *Oliver*: Prithee what wou'd be the Effects of that, but the daily Cutting of one anothers Throats, for every Pragmatical Coxcomb would think that he could Govern better than the Administrator, and so the greatest Knave would become the greatest Man; how would any one then be safe in his Property? May not *Roger* tell his Landlord *De Foe*, that he understands to Cultivate the Ground better than he, and bid him mind his Politicks; and may not *De Foe* reply to *Roger*, that he doth not sufficiently stock his Pasture and so come and seize upon the Premises? Neither doth the Historiographical Author Intimate, that the People have any more Right to Kill their King, than he them in any Christian Country: And if Brother *Ben* thinks fit to Preach up Resistance, I advise him to go to *Turkey*, and take the Hempen Reward by the Mutes for his pains; for I know of no Christian Monarch in our Refin'd *Europa*, who are so Lavish of their Subjects Lives: Neither do I believe that there is any Government would tolerate the Breaching of such Principles as *Ben* and You have done, and let you go without your Reward.

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I remember the Scripture saith, he that Resists receives to himself Damnation, but this Probably you are both sure of, and therefore would secure a Property till then. Be advis'd, give to every one their Due; Tribute to whom Tribute is due; Custom to whom Custom; Render to *Cesar* the things which are *Cesars*; and to God the things which are Gods; which is the Rule that is set us to walk by in this World: And as for the other, those that are minded to Preach up Disobedience, may in due time receive a full Recompence for their Distracted Ideas of things not revealed.

For it matters not to thee nor me a farthing from whence the Queen has that Power, but we are very well assured if we disobey that Power we shall be Rewarded according to our deserts; and as the Supposition is Madness that when thou wast enrag'd at thy Daughter for Breaking thy Glass; God Almighty shou'd come down to thee and give thee Power to kill thy Daughter; so it is equally Lunacy to fear any such male Administration under the Best, the Mildest and the Justest of Kings or Queens that ever Rul'd a Nation; and therefore why shou'd Brother *Ben*, or any of his Kidney raise such Cavils at a time when all Parties seem'd so well agreed? Except he had a mind to put a Blemish on the most Glorious Reign, and ferment Jealousies among the most willing, obedient Subjects: We have a Revolution, and God be thanked for it; but Prithce ask *Ben*, why he that understands Politicks so well

well was not Elected King ; If so be, the Convention had no regard to the Divine Succession of Inheritance ? And Prithee let me know in the next what Resistance any former Bishop of *Exeter*, or any of the People of *England*, ever made against our Royal Queens Father, for did not he of his own accord Resign his Power by leaving his Kingdom ; & then what had the People to do, but to declare the next Heir upon whom the Power devolved, which they all unanimously did upon the Princess *Mary*, with her Consort the Prince of happy Memory ; and I am very well satisfied our good Queen thought her self not Injur'd thereby ; and therefore neither *Ben*, nor Thee, nor I, have any Power to dispute the Right of it : And altho' King *James*, did afterwards endeavour to Reassume that Right in *Ireland*, yet he having by a formal Act and Deed of Abdication relinquish'd his Prerogative, that Civil War which afterwards ensued in that Kingdom can no more be accounted a Resistance of the People, than if Mr. *Hoady* for fear of being call'd to an Account for prescribing Measures of Submission to Government, or endeavouring all that in him lies to bring in disgrace a Right Reverend Bishop ; shou'd abdicate *St. Peter's* Poor, and the Chapter of *St. Pauls* shou'd present a fitter Man to be Instituted and Inducted ; and when such a one was so Instituted, Prithee *Bess*, would not all the World think *Ben* mad if he shou'd come to the Parson or Parishioners, and tell them, Gentlemen, I never gave it under my Hand and Seal I would leave you : I only
went

went a way because I could stay no longer : May not the Parishioners very rationally reply, what have we to do with that, you were gone away and we are very glad of it, for we have got a better in your Room.

But *Betty* ! this neglected Widow-hood is a sad case or else thou would'st never have gone to *Bedlam* or *Ludlow* for Law, for this *Robin* Read-Breast was our good Queen, that made the Pious and Learned Dr. *Blackhall* Bishop of *Exeter*, and as it was from his own Apostolical Notion of Government, He Preach'd such an Excellent Sermon before her, so it was by her Order that he printed it ; and now let us state the Case fairly between the Queen, the Bishop and Mr. *Hoadly* : The Bishop he Preach'd a Sermon according to the Words of the Apostle that all Power was from God ; The Queen as all good Princes do willingly acknowledge Divine Omnipotence, Order'd the Bishop to Publish it for the Improvement and Instruction of her People : Mr. *Hoadly* he comes and tells you they are both mistaken, Power was Originally from the People and as he was one of the People, Power must come from him : But it's very well ; curst Cowes have short Horns, or else I believe he would have no more Regard to the Revolution than *Oliver* had to Religion, when he hypocritically went to Consult God in Prayer to cut off her Grandfather's Head ; for if her Majesty has no Inclination to strain her Prerogative, why shou'd he have a fancy to disparage it in the Eyes of the People

People: Neither will that pretence of the
Laudean Doctrine any more Justifie the Jealous
 Practise of the Rumpers, *than the Bishop of*
Exeters Sermon can insinuate into the Queen, a
 distrust of her Peoples Fidelity and Duty to
 her; for as the Subjects of *England* have at all
 times cheerfully contributed not only to de-
 fend her Majesties Supremacy, but to make her
 capable of being an Arbitrator of *Europe*, and
 a defender of Injured Princes; so many of their
 Ancestors formerly Rebell'd against their King,
 and for no other Reason but because he was too
 good for them: But a Burnt Child dreads the
 fire, and we have to our Cost found the fatal
 Experience of lodging the Power in the Peo-
 ple that Brother *Ben* so much stickles for,
 and for which in a little time he may be tied
 up with your Old Acquaintance, *Bess*, if he
 doth not mend his manners: And then thou
 may'st dispute for him, from whence that
 Power came that so serv'd him, for if he
 has a Pardon in his Pocket for killing the
 Queens Subjects, he has none for killing his fel-
 low Creature; and in that the Queen is only
 concerned in suffering the Laws to be duly ex-
 ecuted. But, *Bess*, since thou truly say'st, that
 the Power of War and Peace is in the Queen,
 I prithee who told thee that the House of Com-
 mons were backward in drawing their Purfes
 in her Cause. I am sure, if *Ben* said so, he was as
 grossly mistaken as thou art in saying it was
 not material, whether the Princess *Mary*, our
 late pious Queen, consented or not; for that
 Power

Power which was then given him was only to secure her Right of Inheritance, which was one great Argument of his coming here, as his Declaration will still testifie. But I find, *Betty*, Conscience was not then hardned; thou had'st still a Scruple upon thee and therefore applyed thy self to the Parson, and he told thee that Rebellion was as the Sin of *Witchcraft*; but as he did not believe there was any such a thing as *Witchcraft* could be prov'd, neither could he believe that the Scripture doth in any place countenance Rebellion, for as it cannot be conceiv'd that a Body of People being in the Ordinary use of their Wits, should rise and Joyn themselves together, to plague their Lawfull Governours: No more can it be conceiv'd that a Christian Monarch should endeavour to destroy his People, to make himself a King of Birds or Beasts. But why should *Ben*, you, or I, be angry with her Majesty, if she has two strings to her Bow? If *Ben*, believes that the Queen came to the Crown by the Act of Settlement, let him so believe in God's Name; Provided he is Obedient to her Gentle Government; and if I believe she succeeded in the Government by the Right of Inheritance, what has *Ben*, to do with that. I am sure that Principle, will never teach me Rebellion; and I dare pass my Word, if she is but as lawfully obey'd by *Ben*'s faction, as she is pretty sure she will by a true Churchman, she will never be angry with either of us, let us believe that she came to the Crown either by Inheritance or Settlement.

For

For I know very well, *Bess*, that I am in the Right of it, and it makes me mad to think so; because I know as well that the right Principle is the wrong way to Preferment: And this I know as well as *Ben*, who being grown cunning lately, found out that the Civil Power doth still seem to give Countenance to the Doctrine of *Non-Resistance*, by continuing the Authority of the Book of *Homilies*, which Doctrine *Ben* and I have once or twice sworn to Preach up, as well as my Lord of *Exeter*.

I remember there was an Old *Oliverian* upon the Kings Return, who was ask'd by a *Cavalier* what he thought of *Regicidism*, and he said *Hugh Peters* once told him it was very Practical among *Barbarians*. But now the Parson of his Parish said it was a Damnable Sin; so that for his Part he was between Hawk and Buzzard, he knew not which Side to be of, but this he was sure of, for the future he would always be Obedient to his Betters, and never make any more Cavils at the Government which Protected him.

But, *Bess*, it Rains, the Weather grows Cold, and so it is time for us to be a little serious; and therefore I declare, that the Bishop of *Exeter* has no more to do in our Quarrel, than the Laws of the Land have in *Ben's* against him; for thou must know, I am not arriv'd to that Degree of Madness, to deserve as thou do'st, to be lock'd up in the dark Room; and therefore I wanted that Stock of Impudence as thou ha'st, first to abuse him to the World, and then

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then send him Word of it. But if this will not suffice, I shall defer the rest to our next Meeting, or the next Moon, Who am,

Dear Betty,
Bedlam June 24th,

1709.

Thy Affectionate

Tom o' Bedlam.

POSTSCRIPT.

1709.

Quest. **G**OOD Girl, enquire of Mr. Hoadly, what Interest his Letter or Answer to the Bishop, has been to the Church of England, of which he is a Presbyter? Secondly, Whether he has not done the Dissenters more Service, than they had Wit or Learning to do themselves? And Thirdly, Whether to divide a Church Kingdom within it self, is the best way to establish it? To which, if he answers in the Affirmative, be pleas'd to return him the Thanks of our whole Society.

FINIS.